



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, JULY 13, 1960

SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SET FOR RAILS, GALLINULES, WILSON'S SNIPE, AND WOODCOCK

The basic frameworks of open seasons and daily bag and possession limits for rails and gallinules, Wilson's snipe, and woodcock were announced today by the Department of the Interior. Announcement of the dates of the different seasons in the various States will be made after the States have made their selections.

Rails and Gallinules

No changes were made from last year in the length of the rail and gallinule seasons in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The States will have the opportunity to select the following length seasons between September 1 and January 15 in their respective flyways: Atlantic, 70 consecutive full days; Mississippi and Central, 50 consecutive full days. Shooting hours will be from sunrise to sunset.

The only change in bag limits for these species was a return to the separate daily bag and possession limits for sora rail of 25. Last year the sora was included in the aggregate bag of all rails. The bag and possession limits for other rails and gallinules are as follows: Atlantic Flyway, 15 and 30, singly or in the aggregate of all species other than sora; Mississippi and Central Flyways, 15 and 15, singly or in the aggregate of all species except sora. No season on gallinules in the Pacific Flyway is being prescribed at this time, but continuation of the provision under which gallinules can be taken with coots in this Flyway will be given consideration when the waterfowl regulations are developed later this summer. There is little hunter interest in rails in the Pacific Flyway.

Wilson's Snipe

All States (except Alaska, where a snipe season is established in a separate schedule adopted for that State) will have an opportunity to select a 30 consecutive full day season between September 1 and January 15. Daily bag and possession limits remain at 8. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

Woodcock

The 1960 counts of woodcock on their singing grounds in the breeding range show a slight decline in numbers of these birds in eastern and western ranges. However, the change is not of sufficient significance to warrant reduction of harvest. As a result, open seasons for this game bird in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway States will be the same as last year--40 consecutive full days between October 1 and January 15. Daily bag and possession limits are again 4 and 8 respectively. Shooting hours for woodcock also are sunrise to sunset.

x x x